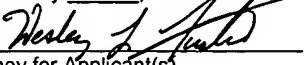


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Attorney for Applicant(s)

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Applicant : Michael L. Howard et al.
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the Continuation Patent Application being submitted herewith,
kindly amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3
of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper..